

The Season of Repentance Is Upon Us

By T.W. Tramm

SUNDAY September 4th marks the first day of the Hebrew month of Elul.

Elul, a name originating from the Akkadian word for “harvest,” is an important month in eschatological terms. It coincides with the late-summer/early-fall harvest season and, as the final month of the civil year, precedes the month of Tishrei and its [High Holy Days](#).

According to Jewish tradition, the first day of Elul marks the beginning of a forty-day period of repentance, or *teshuvah*, which ends on the Day of Atonement. In Judaism, this period is seen as a time of getting one’s spiritual house in order in preparation for the Day of Judgment.

As part of this tradition, every day during the month of Elul a trumpet is sounded. The daily trumpet blasts are a reminder that the day of reckoning is approaching and that time is short to turn from one’s sins and draw close to God. The only day (apart from the Sabbath) on which the trumpet is *not* blown is the *final* day—Elul 29. On this day, the eve of the Jewish New Year (or Rosh Hashanah) all is silent, creating an air of mystery or suspense.

Various Scriptures are associated with the month of Elul. One of these is [Psalm 27](#), which is traditionally recited every day from the beginning of the month up until the final day of the Feast of Tabernacles on Tishrei 21.

Another Scripture linked to Elul, in line with the tradition that it’s the month in which the Lord is like a “King in the field” who is easily accessible and approachable, comes from Isaiah:

“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call to Him while He is near. Let the wicked one abandon his way and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, so He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will freely forgive” (55:6, 7).

A number of historical events are associated with Elul. In ancient times, it was on Elul 1 that Moses ascended the Mount to receive the second set of tablets on which the Law was inscribed. Moses spent forty days on the Mount receiving revelation from God and then descended with the new tablets on the Day of Atonement. Some view this “second descent” as being typological of the Second Coming.

In more recent times, the month of Elul has become associated with the two largest financial collapses in US history. To appreciate the prophetic significance of these collapses, one must be aware of an edict issued in Deuteronomy:

“At the end of every seven years you shall grant a remission of debts ... every creditor shall release what he has loaned to his neighbor; he shall not exact it of his neighbor and his brother ...” (Deut. 15:1, 2).

As part of the Law, the Lord commanded that on the last day of every seventh (shemitah) year, Elul 29, all debt was to be forgiven: Everyone who owed a debt was released. And every creditor had to release the debt owed.

Thus, on Elul 29 the nation’s financial accounts were, in effect, wiped clean.

In view of the fact that Elul 29 is God’s biblically appointed day for wiping the financial slate, it’s remarkable to consider that it was on *this very day* during the consecutive shemitah years of 2001 and 2008 that two unprecedented economic collapses took place: The first crash, occurring on September 17, 2001, was, up until that point, the most colossal crash in US history. The following collapse, an even larger one and the largest to date, occurred exactly seven years later on the *same* Hebrew calendar day, Elul 29.

And so the two most recent and worst stock market crashes in history occurred exactly seven Hebrew years apart, in shemitah years, and on the *exact day* appointed by the Lord for the wiping out of financial accounts—Elul 29.

Coincidence?

Doubtful.

When one considers the innumerable factors contributing to these particular crashes, e.g., the terror attacks on 9/11 and also the collective transactions of individuals, banks, and corporations worldwide, it’s inconceivable that “chance” or even the meticulous planning of some sinister, secret cabal could be responsible. Only an all-powerful God—One possessing mastery over time and space—could orchestrate such a phenomenon.

As if to confirm the Creator’s hand in the shemitah collapses, His signature number, *seven*, comes up again and again in the related stats and figures: Both the 2001 and 2008 collapses saw a *seven* percent loss in the market. The latter collapse saw a drop of 777 points after the government’s *seven* hundred billion dollar bank bailout plan was rejected.¹ And remember, all of this happened on the final day of the *seventh* year!

Does anyone *not* believe that these impossibly uncanny convergences represent a “wink” from the Lord that *He* is in control and doing things according to *His* calendar?

Speaking of confirmation, the presumably God-ordained shemitah collapses validate the sabbatical cycle observed by Jewish authorities, who recognize 2000-2001, 2007-2008, and 2014-2015 as shemitah years.² This is important because, in view of the scriptural dictate that the Jubilee immediately follows the shemitah, the biblical year spanning 2015-16 (*not* 2016-17, as some suggest) qualifies as a jubilee year.³

A final bit of Elul-related trivia derives from the Hebrew spelling of Elul, which can be expanded as an acronym for “*Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li,*” or “*I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine*” (Song of Solomon 6:3).

The connection between Elul and the Bible's Song of Solomon is seen as significant by those who view this book as chock full of rapture typologies. The most commonly cited passage in this regard features a “shepherd” coming to gather and spirit away his beloved, a Shulammitte (Gentile) maid:

“The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; he is looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice. My beloved spoke, and said to me: ‘Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away’” (Song 2:8-10).

Many view the shepherd's call to “*rise up... and come away*” as an allusion to the “good shepherd” (Jesus) coming to catch away His bride at the Rapture.

Might this catching away occur during *this year's* season of repentance?

Only God knows.

But with so many signs converging on the final month of this jubilee year, it's a possibility every watchman and believer in the Lord should be taking seriously.

Now is the time—as the daily trumpet blasts of Elul begin to sound—to draw close to God.

It is time to “seek Him while He may be found.”

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NOTES:

1. http://money.cnn.com/2001/09/17/markets/markets_newyork/

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/stocks-take-record-tumble-down-777-points/>

2. According to the Encyclopedia Judaica, the shemittah cycle has been tracked since before the time of the Second Temple: "After the destruction of the First Temple the Jubilee Years were not ... calculated; only those of the *shemittot* [or *shemittah*, were calculated] Sabbatical (shemittah) years *were* counted from the Second Temple period onward" (*Sabbatical Year and Jubilee*, vol.14, page 579). According to Jewish authorities, the first shemittah year in the modern State of Israel was 1951-52 (5712 on the Hebrew calendar). Subsequent shemittah years have been 1958-59 (5719), 1965-66 (5726), 1972-73 (5733), 1979-80 (5740), 1986-87 (5747), 1993-94 (5754), 2000-01 (5761), 2007-08 (5768), and 2014-15 (5775).

3. Further confirmation that 2015-16 (not 2016-17) is the Jubilee: Daniel 9:25 states, "*From the issuing of a decree to [return to] and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven sevens [or forty-nine years]....*" When we count exactly forty-nine prophetic years (17,640 days) from the June 7, 1967* recapture of Jerusalem, we arrive at September 23, 2015, the Day of Atonement on the modern (pre-calculated) Jewish calendar. When we add the 17,640 days to the date of the June 28, 1967 decree recognizing the Jewish return to Jerusalem,** we arrive at October 14, 2015—the day of the first new moon after the fall equinox, or what those who reckon the biblical calendar according to the ancient method would call the "Feast of Trumpets." These two precise, to-the-day alignments defy coincidence and seem further confirmation that the biblical year commencing in the fall of 2015, and ending in the fall of 2016, is the Jubilee.

* It's interesting to note that the numerical value (gematria) of the word Elul is "67." <http://www.etz-hayim.com/resources/docs/elul.pdf>

**<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/d.../campdavid/letters.phtml> (Scroll down to the sixth letter in the series.)